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# Newsletter

## Number 3 19 February 2016



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### Thanks

... to those who assisted with headlice inspections and swimming trials this week ... we really do appreciate your availability.

... to those making themselves available to attend the forthcoming year 5 and 6 camp.

.. to those who have returned last year's pool keys (still a few to come).

... to those who have already paid their school contributions and/or events fees.

### People of the Week

... Kade Trubshoe who offered help this week to a classmate who was struggling with a work task and was heard to say, "If you need further help just let me know". Awesome Kade. Well done!

### Term calendar ... More to follow as dates come to hand!

22/23 Feb	Parent / teacher / student conferences
25 Feb	Zone Swimming Sports - Kokopu School
4 March	School Swimming Sports (years 4 to 8)
8 March	Interschool Swimming Sports
10 March	Junior Swimming Sports (years 1 to 3)
17 March	Year 7 and 8 vaccinations
21-24 March	Year 5 and 6 camp to Russell
22 March	Middle School Summer Sports Tournament (year 4 only)
4 April	Hockey coaching sessions start
5 April	Mighty Maui Puppet Show
14 April	Snow White Show
15 April	Final day for term 1

**Early Buses** - early notice that buses will run 30 minutes early on 22 and 23 February due to parent interviews. Parents who transport their children by car are asked to pick them up at 2.30 PM please on these days.

### School Swimming Sports (years 4 to 8)

Please plan to be with us for our School Swimming Sports on 4 March.  
More details to follow!

### Movie Night ... CANCELLATION

Thank you to those people who had indicated they would be attending the Movie Night scheduled for this evening. Unfortunately, there has been insufficient interest for this event to proceed at this time. We understand that things can get busy for families and so perhaps the timing was not quite right.

We think it is important for teachers to connect with parents, for parents to connect with each other etc, and so we encourage you to take advantage of future opportunities to do this where you can.

Thank you for your support, and a special thanks to those who put their hands up to organise this event.

### **Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews)**

The above are scheduled for 22 and 23 February. Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews with their child or to make an alternative appointment if these days do not suit. Conferences are an opportunity to talk about your child specifically, to see how they have settled, to note any concerns, and to set some targets. This is a chance for you and your child (optional for year 1 children) to be heard and to hear some first impressions of how their year is unfolding.

To book your appointment visit [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz) and enter the code 4Z27F

If unable to make an online booking please contact the school office and Helen will book for you.

### **During Interviews parents can help by ..**

- .. noting down any questions beforehand and bringing these with you
- .. arriving on time and departing on the bell (the last thing teachers want is to seem rude but, if we don't ALL move on the bell, things can get in something of a tangle).
- .. making a follow-up appointment to discuss issues which may take some time to discuss

### **Needing help with your child's digital device?**

If you need assistance getting your child's device up and running, with security settings, questions about apps etc, Mr Delemare will be located in the school library on Monday during interview times to help or advise you one to one. No appointment necessary, just drop by with any questions. Feel free to bring your child's device with you. Scotty could also be available during Tuesday interview times by request (just contact the office).

### **Reminders from last week**

- ... a reminder to please return the medical / contact details form sent home last week .. even if your details are unchanged. If unsure just give the office a call.
- ... if dropping children off in the upper car park please note the newly designated drop off zone. Please do not park in the zone and move on as quickly as you safely can.
- ... homework programmes are now up and running in most rooms .. please connect with your child's teacher if you have any questions, or if you want your child exempt from home work indefinitely or for a specified period.
- ... sunhats are compulsory in the summer terms. Please check your child's bag each day to ensure they have packed their sunhat.
- ... if your child will not be on their customary bus, or if they will be picked up by someone other than you, please advise the school office not later than 2:45pm
- ... Cambridge material is available at the office for those interested.
- ... National Standards results for the school are available from Kevin on request.
- ... parent helpers are welcome in rooms, the library, the office (where ever you feel comfortable) and so please contact your child's teacher if you would like to become involved.
- ... out of fairness to other families the board requests that all families pay their school contributions if possible. **If feeling financially stretched at the moment parents are welcome to contact Kevin to discuss alternative payment arrangements. You will find us accommodating and discreet.**

### **Parents of children in Learning Support Programmes**

... please show an interest in what your child is doing in these programmes, ensure they have a set time and place for their assigned work (the evening after each session at school) and praise them for every gain no matter how small.

### **Korean language Lessons ... STILL A FEW MORE SPACES !!!**

Last year quite a number of parents indicated that they were keen for their children to participate in Korean language lessons this year. We are pleased to advise that the Korean Consulate has approved our funding application. Lessons will take place each Tuesday (starting 1 March) from 11:00 AM in blocks of around 30-40 minutes (depending on concentration spans). Children will be in small groups with similar aged children. Parents who indicated interest received a letter last week requesting authorisation for withdrawal from regular class. **Other interested parents are asked to contact Kevin early next week (phone or email .. [principal@matarau.school.nz](mailto:principal@matarau.school.nz)) so we can add you to our list.** Senior students will have the option of Korean lessons in the afternoons as part of their wider options programme.

### Term Headlice Inspection

Inspections this week indicate low levels of infestation across the school. If you did receive notice of infestation, or suspected infestation, please take appropriate action before your child returns to school on Monday. Please check your children's hair weekly (or fortnightly) so we stay on top of this problem. Thank you again to our parent inspection team.

### International Schools English and Maths Competitions

Consent forms for the above competitions will be sent out shortly. Please give careful thought regarding your child's participation this year. The competition is open to all comers but there is little point in participating if children are unlikely to complete a MINIMUM of 5 practice tests in the period building up to the test. In some years a significant number of children did few or no practice tests, in spite of being issued with these at school and results reflected this. So .. keen to see as many children as possible on-board for these - but only if there is a commitment to do the practice tests.

### School gates

The school gates help us to keep children safe. If you are entering, or exiting, the school grounds during school hours it is important to ensure you close these gates after you. If you are dropping a child at school after first or before final bell, please be aware that they may not be tall enough to open these gates on their own.

### Zone Swimming Sports - Kokopu School - 25 February

Consents for this event (years 4 to 8) were sent home on Wednesday. Please return consents this coming Monday so that we can confirm entries and bus transport. **If you do not receive a consent, and you would like your child to participate in this event (and you can put a good case), please contact Katie or Simon next week.**

### Swimming sports .. what to bring?

Parents are asked to ensure please that children bring their lunches, plenty to drink, sunhats (and sun safe clothing), sunblock, something warm to wear between races, and spending money at your discretion. Please ensure that children who travel by bus also return to school by bus - unless otherwise arranged with the attending teachers. If weather is doubtful on the morning please check our phone bulletin board for updates. (Children who qualify at the zone event will be invited to participate in the Interschool Swimming Championships - more to follow)

### Pool Keys

The pool will be available for public use. Hire keys are available from the school office at \$30 per family for the 2016 swimming season. If you have a key from last year it is important that you return this as soon as possible. Last year's keys will not work on the lock in 2016. No fence jumping **and please remember to lock the school gate when leaving.**

### Lunches

Our students bring amazing (and very healthy) lunches to school. As you know we do supervise them to make sure they eat a good portion of what you have sent along. Having said this, we do not require children to finish every item in their lunchbox. If you have checked their lunchbox and would like them to eat a little more, just let us know and we will do our best. We try to ensure that packaged treats are left until last but this can be a bit of a mission sometimes.

### Have Fun Learning/Practising Te Reo

Most classes will be visited weekly by our Te Reo teacher to deepen their experiences in waiata(song), te reo(Maori language) and tikanga(customs). The teacher is loads of fun and the lessons are filled with practical and fun activities. These lessons have got off to a great start, the kids are buzzing, and so please take the time to ask what they are learning. Lessons are of approximately 30 minutes duration and will run for the first half of this year.

### School Sponsors sought for 2016

Interested parties are invited to express an interest in becoming a school sponsor. Our sponsors provide an important link between the school and its community. While grateful for the financial contributions of

sponsors our desire to foster an on-going and mutually beneficial relationship between the school and your business is our paramount consideration.

Where relevant, a sponsor will be given the opportunity to quote on school work through the Ministry of Education. This is just one of the benefits of being a sponsor.

If you are interested in becoming a school sponsor, please contact Mary Finlayson 4370441 or 0274525398.

### **Year 5 & 6 Camp**

If you have not yet returned your permission forms please get these to the school office by Monday. If you would like to discuss time payment arrangements please contact Kevin and we can negotiate something that works for you. A reminder that overnight camp parents need to be police vetted and so please contact Mr Schuster if you have not yet provided the necessary documents and forms.

### **Manaakitanga ... important enough to mention again!**

This year our overarching virtue (principle) is *Manaakitanga*. Literally, manaakitanga means to "care for a person's mana" (well-being, in a holistic sense). On a marae, it is often claimed that it is not what is said that matters, but how people are looked after. Many consider this is the essence of manaakitanga. We are looking forward to growing our understanding of what this means in the broader sense, but this definition will be our starting point.

We invite parents to join with staff and children in practising manaakitanga this year. We have a duty to respect, nurture, encourage and support each other (even ... perhaps even especially ... those we disagree with). Words and actions ripple ... we have a duty to consider how our words and actions safeguard the mana of others. There are endless possibilities for each of us to grow and learn together as we explore this concept. Please join us!

### **Finally**

This week we spoke to children about the amazing things that happen when we attend to some of the "smaller" things. Currently we are encouraging the more routine use of please, thank you and excuse me around the school, as well as random acts of kindness to others. You might also like to make these a special focus at home.

Our Sponsors support your  
children, please support them

**Sumpter Baughen**

Chartered Accountants

Ph 09 438 3939

Email: sarahk@sumpters.co.nz

Regards

Kevin Trehwella

PRINCIPAL

### **Guitar Lessons**

If interested in your child learning guitar after school, please phone Vangie on 434 7573 or 021 1883251, or email killalea@ihug.co.nz

## **Community Notices**

**Making a Scene Drama and Voice Academy** now has more classes over more days and is offering tuition in the following areas Drama, Musical Theatre and Communication classes From Monday -Thursday. Tuition is open to beginners and experienced students age from 7-18, visit the website to choose a class to suit your needs. [www.makingascene.co.nz](http://www.makingascene.co.nz) or ph 021 172 3568

### **Position Vacant - EGG COLLECTOR REQUIRED FOR FREE-RANGE POULTRY FARM.- PURUA**

Commitment required is 16 days a month including 2 weekends, and approx 7-8 hours per day with 6.30-7 am starts. The job primarily involves packing eggs, shed checks and contact with chickens, and cleaning. Some heavy lifting is required. Preference will be given to applicants with good maths skills as counting and packing orders as well as reconciliations are part of the job. We are looking for a reliable, energetic person with good attention to detail and a healthy sense of humour. Please contact Lee McGrath, [thehookfarm@xtra.co.nz](mailto:thehookfarm@xtra.co.nz)

**Irish Dancing Lessons** - Matarau School Hall, Wednesdays 4-5pm weekly. \$10 per lesson, first lesson free.

Contact Teresa Walker - 021 165 9360

**Circus Skills Classes** - Mondays from 29 Feb 4pm-5.30pm - Youth Class 9 -18yrs olds, 5-8yr olds  
Wednesdays from 2 March from 4pm- 5.30pm, More information text Abbe from Circus Kumarani on 0212375176 or email clark.abbe@gmail.com